



NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to you to report back after another busy week representing you in Washington. I'm pleased to announce that today, the House passed my amendment to improve veterans' access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment. Earlier this week, I launched my People not Profits initiative to get the government working for us instead of corporate interests by introducing a Constitutional Amendment to get dark money out of politics. Meanwhile, President Trump released a budget blueprint with severe and unacceptable cuts that would even eliminate many key programs in New Hampshire. And the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office confirmed that the Republican health care bill would cause huge coverage losses, 40,800 in our district alone, and would cut Medicaid, end Medicaid expansion, roll back requirements that insurance cover basic medical services, increase deductibles, and raise premiums for older Americans – all while slashing taxes for the wealthiest.

Improving veterans' access to mental health care

Today, the House passed my amendment to address the shortage of VA mental health professionals. I'm proud this amendment earned support from my Republican and Democratic colleagues as well as the American Legion.

The VA faces a critical shortage of mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health counselors, and peer support specialists. These providers care for our veterans with behavioral health needs that include post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma, and substance use disorder. Too many of our veterans must wait to receive the mental health care we have promised to them, and some might never receive needed care at all.

I told my colleagues that here in New Hampshire, we are fighting a fentanyl, heroin and prescription opioid crisis that is disproportionately affecting the veteran community. Rates of opioid-use disorder among veterans rose 55% between 2010 and 2015, and overdose rates for prescription opioids are twice as high as the national average among veterans getting care at the VA. Increasing mental health provider capacity will allow more of these veterans to enter treatment and, ultimately, recovery.

Watch the amendment pass here:



President Trump's immoral budget blueprint

A budget is a moral document. As an American, I'm deeply concerned about the drastic cuts President Trump has proposed in this week's budget blueprint, which fail to reflect our shared morals and values. As your representative in Congress, I will fight to stop this budget, which would hurt New Hampshire in so many ways.

This budget attacks many of the priorities that make our country strong, and threatens our world leadership in cutting-edge research, higher education, and economic innovation. To fight back, I'll be speaking up for the New Hampshire jobseekers whose workforce training programs could be cut; the families awaiting a groundbreaking NIH treatment for a rare disease; the UNH researchers with grants that will allow them to improve the world; and everyone who cares about protecting the environment so our children can grow up safe and healthy.

The budget would even eliminate programs that feed the hungry, including after-school nutrition assistance and Meals on Wheels. Contrary to the Administration's outrageous statements at yesterday's press briefing, these programs do work, and cutting them is the exact opposite of "compassionate." I will not stand by while the Trump Administration tries to justify destroying vital support systems for our most vulnerable citizens.

People Not Profits

This week, I introduced the Corporations Are Not People Amendment to launch my People Not Profits initiative to root out corporate influence in Washington. The amendment reverses the catastrophic effects of 2010's Citizens United decision, which has allowed dark money to flood our elections and drown out Americans' voices in our democracy. Getting dark money out of politics is the necessary first step toward restoring trust in elections and getting our government working for the people instead of for corporate interests.

In addition to getting money out of politics, the People Not Profits initiative will tackle lobbying loopholes that currently allow revolving-door influence, and work to strengthen prohibitions against conflicts of interest so we can make sure government officials aren't using their position for personal profit.

Investigating the Marines United photo scandal

On Thursday, I attended a Military Personnel Subcommittee briefing on the outrageous non-consensual sharing of explicit photographs of female Marines by some male service members. This illegal behavior simply cannot continue, and I'm committed to holding those involved accountable. I asked the witnesses, senior Marine Corps officials, to explain how many Marines were involved and how many individuals were victimized, and made it clear that the Marine Corps must enforce a zero-tolerance policy.

Closing thoughts

Today, I welcomed the D.C. Bully Busters to my office, and was proud to sign [their pledge](#) to stand up to bullying.



These sixth graders are right: Kids shouldn't bully and neither should politicians!

Next week, House Republicans have scheduled a vote on their devastating health care bill, which would kick 24 million Americans off their coverage. I will be voting NO. I will also offer amendments to the bill that would bring our health care system forward, not backward, and keep speaking out about why this bill is wrong for New Hampshire and for America.

Best wishes,

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol

This week's press releases

- [House Passes Shea-Porter Amendment to Improve VA Hiring of Mental Health Professionals](#)

- [Shea-Porter Votes to Improve VA Oversight](#)
- [ICYMI: Cummings Releases New Documents Confirming That Flynn Received Funds From Instrument of Russian Government](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on President's Budget](#)
- [Shea-Porter Introduces Corporations Are Not People Amendment](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Huge Coverage Losses Under Republican Health Care Bill](#)

ICYMI

[Shea-Porter Says Trump Budget Doesn't Reflect Morals, Values](#)

AP // Michael Casey

New Hampshire Democratic U.S. Rep. Carol Shea-Porter says the budget is a "moral document," and she's deeply concerned by drastic cuts proposed in President Donald Trump's budget blueprint that "fail to reflect our shared morals and values."

[Potential cuts to NOAA concern leaders in Granite State, Washington D.C.](#)

Union Leader // Kimberley Haas

The acting director of the New Hampshire Sea Grant program at the University of New Hampshire and members of the state's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., are concerned about potential cuts to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) budget.



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